

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, JO, US

SUBJECT: JORDAN AIR DEFENSE

1. TALKED WITH RIFAI AND KING TODAY ABOUT AIR DEFENSE IN COURSE OF A DISCUSSION OF OTHER MATTERS.

2. PROVIDED KING WITH COPY OF THE PAGES OF EXECUTIVE SUMMARY, JADAT REPORT DETAILING OPTIONS AND DELIVERY TIMES. INDICATED WITH ASTERISK OPTIONS WHICH CONSTITUTED OUR RECOMMENDATION (PHASE 1A, IIB, AND IIIC). POINTED OUT THAT PHASES IIA AND IIIB FORMED A LESSER PRIORITY RECOMMENDATION FOR FUTURE SYSTEM BUILDING. I INDICATED THAT PRESIDENT HAD APPROVED SALE OF SYSTEMS UP TO HIGHEST OPTIONS IN EASH PHASE AND THAT IN ADDITION PRESIDENT HAD INDICATED HE WANTED SECDEF TO LOOK INTO POSSIBILITIES OF ADVANCEING DELIVERY DATES OF SOME SYSTEMS IN PRIORITY OPTIONS (CAHPARRAL AND VULCAN) TO ACCOMMODATE JORDANIAN INTEREST IN ACQUIRING AN AIR DEFENSE CAPABILITY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

3. DURING THE COURSE OF DISCUSSION, I NOTED THAT PHASES ACCORDED WITH OUR GENERAL VIEWS ON PRIORITY OF VARIOUS DEFENSE ALTERNATIVES WITH AIREA DEFENSE OF AMMAN-ZERKA BY HAWK MISSILES COMING LAST.

4. DURING SEPARATE PRESENTATION TO RIFAI, HE VOLUNTEERED THAT JORDAN WANTED TO PURCHASE THESE SYSTEMS OUTSIDE OF THE REGULAR

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PROGRAM OF US ASSISTANCE WITH FUNDS PROVIDED BY OR PLEDGED BY

ARAB COUNTRIES. SAID THAT ACCORDED ENTIRELY WITH OUR OWN IDEAS, BUT IF NECESSARY SOME FMS CREDIT COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE. HOWEVER, IT AMMOUNTED TO CLOSE TO THE SAME THING SINCE OUR PRESENT POLICY WAS TO PROVIDE FMS CREDIT TO BE UNDERWRITTEN BY OTHER ARAB STATES AS AN INDUCEMENT TO INCREASE THEIR AID TO JORDAN ON A GRANT BASIS. RIFAI ALSO STRESSED TO ME THAT JORDAN DESIRES AN ALMOST IMMEDIATE DELIVERY OF SOME WEAPONS AS A MORALE LIFT FOR ITS FORCES WHO ARE ACUTELY CONSCIOUS OF THE LACK OF THAT CAPABILITY. HE ASKED ABOUT REDEYE AND I SAID THAT WE WOULD LOOK INTO THAT POSSIBILITY. LATER KING ASKED ALSO ABOUT REDEYE AND I INDICATED THAT THERE WAS POSSIBILITY OF OUR TAKING A POSITIVE POSITION ON REDEYE, BUT WE BOTH AGREED THAT HIS MILITARY STAFF WOULD STUDY THE OPTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS AND THEN BE BACK TO US FOR SOME DISCUSSION OF THEIR OWN PRIORITIES. I EMPHASIZED FOR BOTH KING AND RIFAI THAT HAWK WAS OF LOWEST PRIORITY AND INVOLVED LONG LEADTIMES ON WHICH WE HAD NO FLEXIBILITY. COMMENT: BOTH SEEMED TO ACCEPT THE LOW PRIORITY ACCORDED HAWK AND DID NOT RAISE THE ISSUE OF MORE FLEXIBILITY OR EVEN INDICATE AN SPECIAL INTEREST IN ITS ACQUISITION. END COMMENT.

5. IN ADDITION TO SAYING THAT HE WANTED TO DISCUSS AIR DEFENSE FURTHER WITH ME NEZT WEEK, KING ALSO SAID THAT HE NOW CONSIDERS THAT AIR DEFENSE HAS HIGHEST PRIORITY AMONG HIS DEFENSE NEEDS. BOTH HE AND RIFAI SAID THAT THEY HOPED THAT AIR DEFENSE COULD BE THOROUGHLY DISCUSSED WITH CHIEF OF STAFF BIN SHAKER NOW IN US, AND THAT BEFORE KING'S VISIT IS OVER THEY CAN HAVE FIRM IDEA ON DELIVERY DATES FOR SOME EQUIPMENT WHICH THEY WOULD LIKE TO PROCEED TO ACQUIRE IMMEDIATELY. I SAID THAT I HOPED WE COULD DO THIS AND WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO DO SO, BUT COULD NOT GIVEN THEM A COMMITMENT. RIFAI WISHES ALSO TO ARRANGE PAYMENT TERMS SO THAT ACQUISITON CAN BE SPACED OUT OR PHASED OVER A PERIOD OF YEARS AND PAYMENT CAN BE WORKED OUT WITH OTHER ARABS IN TERMS OF THE RABAT WAR CHEST COMMITMENT.

6. KING IS CLEARLY VERY PLEASED WITH DECISION AND WANTS NOW TO MOVE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE TO WORK OUT TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE. HE IS UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE FROM OTHER ARABS (WHO GAVE RABAT PAYMENTS SO JORDAN COULD ACQUIRE SOME AIR DEFENSE) AND HIS OWN FORCES (PARTLY OF HIS OWN MAKING SINCE IN RECENT

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SPEECHES TO HIS TROOPS HE HAS BEEN EMPHASIZING THEME OF NEED FOR THIS TYPE OF REQUIPMENT). OUR MOVE TO WORK WITH HIM MAY NOT PRE-EMPT HIS EFFORTS TO TRY TO "BORROW" EQUIPMENT FROM SOME OF HIS ARAB NEIGHBORS, BUT IT MAY HELP TO REDUCE THE FRANTIC QUALITY WHICH HAS CHARACTERIZED SUCH EFFORTS AND ALSO PERMIT JORDAN AND THE US TO EXERCISE SOME DISRECTION IN WHAT JORDAN ACQUIRES AND WHERE IT COMES FROM. PICKERING

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED DOD.

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